

## LOBSTER, CRAB, and FISH POT GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

This log contains detailed questions about the gear fished. Complete a new log for each uniquely configured gear (as defined below) **hailed** during a trip. These unique configurations may be based on variables such as number of pots, baiting method, etc. Number each gear configuration sequentially. Any changes in these fields require the completion of a new Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log.

If a gear is set out and hauled more than once during a trip do not complete a new Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log for the multiple hauls. Rather, record on the Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Haul Log which gear number is being hauled. In addition, record any other information necessary to understand the manner in which the gear was set/hauled in COMMENTS.

If the vessel has two or more identical gears which are hauled separately, complete only one Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log and record the consecutively assigned numbers of all identical gears described in GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1). See the lobster, crab, and fish pot definitions below and GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1) for more information on defining and numbering gears.

If information is unavailable or unknown to any question except a “No/Yes” question, record a dash (-) in the field. If the answer to a “No/Yes” question is unknown, record a “9” on the line next to the code for “No” to indicate that the field was not skipped, but the answer is unknown. If a field relates to a question to which you previously answered “No”, leave the field blank.

Become familiar with the following definitions.

### DEFINITIONS

**Lobster, Crab, or Fish Pot Trawl:** A series of traps attached to a groundline (“the trawl or string”). Each trap contains a ballast to ensure minimal movement on the ocean floor. The traps are baited, and configured to allow entry, but no exit, of the targeted species.

**Kitchen:** Section of the trap where the bait is located.

**Parlor:** Section of the trap from which animals are removed by the fisherman.

**Collar:** A non-return device in the shape of a funnel whose tapered end is directed away from the opening and into the catch/bait chamber. This device is common in crab, eel, and fish pots and is also called “the throat”.

**Gear:** An individual lobster, crab, or fish pot trawl.

**Buoyline:** A line that connects the buoy(s) at the surface to the gear (anchor or pot/trap) fishing in the water below.

**Groundline:** A line that connects the pot/traps to form a pot/trap trawl or string.

**Gangion:** A line that attaches a pot/trap to the groundline.

**Anchor Line:** A line that connects the anchor to the closest (first or last) gangion.

**Weak link:** A breakable component of gear that will part when subject to a specific tension load.

### INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing Header Fields A - D refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

**1. GEAR NUMBER(S):** Record the consecutive number(s) assigned to each uniquely configured gear hauled and for which characteristics are described. See the definition of gear in the introduction.

**NOTE:** If two or more identical gears are used, assign consecutive numbers to each gear and record all of these numbers on one Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log.

**Example:** The first uniquely configured gear is “1”, and its characteristics will be recorded on one Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log. The next two **identical** gears are “2, 3”, and their identical characteristics will be recorded on a second Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log.

**NOTE:** Gears should be numbered consecu-

tively according to the order in which they are hauled aboard the vessel to which you are deployed.

Example: First gear hauled is "1", next gear hauled is "2", etc.

**2. NUMBER OF POTS:** Record the **total** number of individual pots used in this gear.

## POT CHARACTERISTICS

**NOTE:** If a trawl includes more than one type of pot, complete a Lobster, Crab, and Fish Pot Gear Characteristics Log for the pot type that makes up the majority (>50%) of the trawl, and record the number of the pots of each different side construction in COMMENTS.

**3. SHAPE:** Record the shape of the pot(s) used on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 00 = Unknown.
- 01 = Rectangular.
- 02 = Round/Oval.
- 03 = 1/2 Round, record only the **BOTTOM LENGTH** (#7), **BOTTOM WIDTH** (#8) and **HEIGHT** (#9).
- 04 = Cone.
- 05 = Trapezoid.
- 99 = Other, record the pot shape in COMMENTS.

**4. SIDE CONSTRUCTION:** Record the type of material used in the construction of the sides of the pot, by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Wood Lathe.
- 2 = Plastic Coated Wire.
- 3 = Twine Mesh.
- 4 = Plastic Mesh.
- 8 = Combination, record the side construction materials in COMMENTS.
- 9 = Other, record the side construction material in COMMENTS.

**5. TOP LENGTH:** Record, in whole inches, the length of the top of the pots used on this gear.

**6. TOP WIDTH:** Record, in whole inches, the width of the top of the pots used on this gear.

**7. BOTTOM LENGTH:** Record, in whole inches, the length of the bottom of the pots used on this gear.

**8. BOTTOM WIDTH:** Record, in whole inches, the width of the bottom of the pots used on this gear.

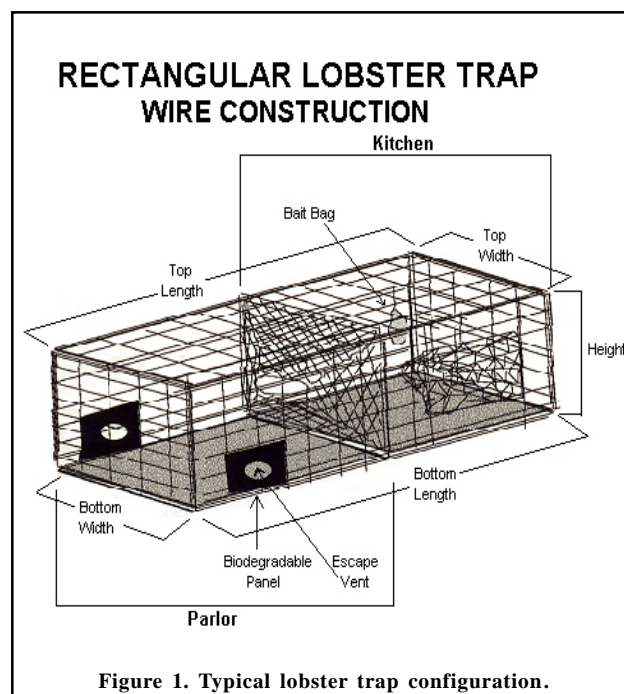
**9. HEIGHT:** Record, in whole inches, the height of the pots used on this gear.

## GROUNDLINE

**10. LENGTH BETWEEN POTS:** Record, in whole feet, the weighted **average** length between the pots used on this gear. See Figure 2.

**11. TYPE CODE:** Indicate the type of groundline used on this gear by recording the most appropriate code from the list below, and in Appendix L. Material / Other Codes:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Sinking / Neutrally Buoyant.
- 2 = Floating.
- 8 = Combination, record all buoyline types used in the COMMENTS.
- 9 = Other, record buoyline type in the COM-



**MENTS.**

**NOTE:** This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**12. DIAMETER:** Record, in inches, the **average** fractional diameter of the groundline used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

Example: 3/8 inches.

**ESCAPE VENT**

**13. USED?:** Record whether any escape vent(s) is (are) used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = No.
- 1 = Yes.

**14. NUMBER:** Record the number of escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear.

**15. SHAPE:** Record the shape of the escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 00 = Unknown.
- 01 = Rectangular.
- 02 = Round/Oval.
- 99 = Other, record the escape vent shape in the COMMENTS.

**16. LENGTH:** Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the length of the escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear. Use calipers to obtain this measurement. See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

**17. HEIGHT:** Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the height of the escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear. Use calipers to obtain this measurement. See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

**18. LOCATION:** Record the location of escape vent(s) used in the pots on this gear, by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Top.
- 2 = Side.
- 3 = End.

- 8 = Combination, record all escape vent locations on line 18A.
- 9 = Other, record the escape vent location on line 18A.

**ENTRANCE**

**19. NUMBER:** Record the number of entrances used in the pots on this gear.

**20. RING SIZE:** Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the inside ring diameter from the entrance(s) used in the pots on this gear. Use calipers for this measurement. If no ring is used, record a dash (-). See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

**21. LOCATION:** Record the location of the entrance(s) used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Top.
- 2 = Side.
- 3 = End.
- 8 = Combination, record all entrance locations on line 21A.
- 9 = Other, record the entrance location on line 21A.

**BIODEGRADABLE PANEL**

**22. USED?:** Record whether a biodegradable panel is used in the pots on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = No.
- 1 = Yes.

**23. ATTACHMENT TYPE:** Record the material used to attach the biodegradable panel to the pots on this gear, by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Iron Hog Rings.
- 2 = Degradable Plastic.
- 3 = Softwood Lathe.
- 4 = Uncoated Wire.
- 9 = Other, record the attachment type on line 23A.

**BAIT**

**24. METHOD:** Record the method used to bait the pots on this gear by placing an “X” next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = String.
- 2 = Bait Bag.
- 9 = Other, record the baiting method on line 24A.

**SURFACE SYSTEM**

**NOTE:** The surface system refers to the configuration of high flyers and buoys at the surface of the water. See Figure 2.

**25. NUMBER OF HIGH FLYER(S):** Record the **total** number of high flyer(s) used on this gear.

**26. NUMBER OF BUOY(S):** Record the **total** number of surface buoy(s) used on this gear. These buoy(s) may be referred to as tide buoy(s) and are connected to the buoyline.

**27. LENGTH OF LINE BETWEEN HIGH FLYER(S) and BUOY(S):** Record, in whole feet, the **average** length between the high flyer(s) and buoy(s) which are attached to the same buoyline. This length may be obtained from the Captain.

**28. TYPE CODE:** Indicate the type of line used between the high flyer(s) and buoy(s) on this gear by recording the most appropriate code from the list below, and in Appendix L. Material / Other Codes:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Sinking / Neutrally Buoyant.
- 2 = Floating.
- 8 = Combination, record all line types used in the COMMENTS.
- 9 = Other, record line type in the COMMENTS.

**NOTE:** This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**29. DIAMETER:** Record, in inches, the **average** fractional diameter of the line between the high flyer(s) and buoy(s) used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

Example: 5/8 inches.

**WEAK LINKS**

**NOTE:** Please reference the NOAA Northeast Regional Office's outreach supplement titled 'Techniques for Making Weak Links and Marking Buoy Lines' for an explanation of weak link types.

**30. USED ON SURFACE?:** Record whether any weak links are used on the surface system of this gear by placing an “X” next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = No.
- 1 = Yes.

**31. NUMBER:** Record the **total** number of surface system weak links used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain. See Figure 2.

**32. TYPE CODE:** Indicate the type of weak link(s) used on the surface system of this gear by recording the most appropriate code from the list below, and in Appendix L. Material / Other Codes:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Rope of Appropriate Breaking Strength.
- 2 = Off the Shelf.
- 3 = Overhand Knot.
- 4 = Hog Rings.
- 8 = Combination, record all weak link types used in the COMMENTS.
- 9 = Other, record the weak link type in the COMMENTS.

**NOTE:** This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**GANGIONS**

**33. USED?:** Record whether any gangions are used on this gear by placing an “X” next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = No.
- 1 = Yes.

**34. LENGTH:** Record, in whole feet, the **average** length of the gangion(s) used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**35. TYPE CODE:** Indicate the type of gangion(s) used on this gear by recording the most appropriate code from the list below, and in Appendix L. Material / Other Codes:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Sinking / Neutrally Buoyant.
- 2 = Floating.
- 8 = Combination, record all gangion types used in the COMMENTS.
- 9 = Other, record gangion type in the COMMENTS.

**NOTE:** This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**36. DIAMETER:** Record, in inches, the **average** fractional diameter of the gangion(s) used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

Example: 5/8 inches.

## BUOYLINE

**37. NUMBER OF BUOYLINE(S):** Record the number of buoyline(s) used on this gear. See Figure 2.

**38. LENGTH :** Record, in whole feet, the **average** length of the buoyline(s) used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**39. TYPE CODE:** Indicate the type of buoyline(s) used on this gear by recording the most appropriate code from the list below, and in Appendix L. Material / Other Codes:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Sinking / Neutrally Buoyant.
- 2 = Floating.
- 8 = Combination, record all buoyline types used in the COMMENTS.
- 9 = Other, record buoyline type in the COMMENTS.

**NOTE:** This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**40. PERCENT OF TYPE:** Record the

**average** percent of buoyline type (sinking/ neutrally buoyant to floating) used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**NOTE:** This field should only be completed if Combination is selected for Buoyline Type Code (#39), otherwise dash '-' the field.

Example: The Captain states that he has 75% sinking line and 25% floating. This should be recorded as '75/25'.

**41. DIAMETER:** Record, in inches, the **average** fractional diameter of the buoyline(s) used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

Example: 5/8 inches.

## ANCHORS

**42. USED?:** Record whether any anchor(s) are used on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = No.
- 1 = Yes.

**43. NUMBER:** Record the number of anchor(s) used on this gear.

**44. WEIGHT:** Record, in whole pounds, the **total** weight of the anchor(s) used to hold this gear in place. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

**45. WEIGHT - ACTUAL OR ESTIMATED:** Record whether the weight recorded in ANCHOR WEIGHT (#42) is an actual or estimated value by circling the appropriate letter code:

- A = Actual.
- E = Estimated.

**46. TYPE(S):** Indicate which type(s) of anchor(s) are used on this gear by placing and "X" next to the appropriate code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Danforth-style.
- 2 = Dead Weight (i.e. railroad tracks, mushroom weights, pile of leadline tied together).
- 3 = Combination, record all anchor types used in the COMMENTS.
- 4 = Other, record the anchor type on line 46A.

**NOTE:** For examples of common anchor types, reference Figure 2 in the Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log section of this manual.

## ANCHOR LINE

**47. LENGTH OF LINE BETWEEN ANCHOR AND GANGION:** Record, in whole feet, the **average** length between the anchor and the closest gangion attached to the groundline used on this gear.

**48. TYPE CODE:** Indicate the type of anchor line used on this gear by recording the most appropriate code from the list below, and in Appendix L. Material / Other Codes:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Sinking / Neutrally Buoyant.
- 2 = Floating.
- 8 = Combination, record all anchor line types used in the COMMENTS.
- 9 = Other, record anchor line type in the COMMENTS.

**NOTE:** This information may be obtained from the Captain..

**49. DIAMETER:** Record, in inches, the **average** fractional diameter of the anchor line used on this gear. This information may be obtained from the Captain.

Example: 3/8 inches.

## COMMENTS

Record any additional information about this gear. Be sure to include a description if a 'combination' or 'other' code is used for one or more fields (i.e. surface weak link type = other, modified swivel). If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of the log. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.

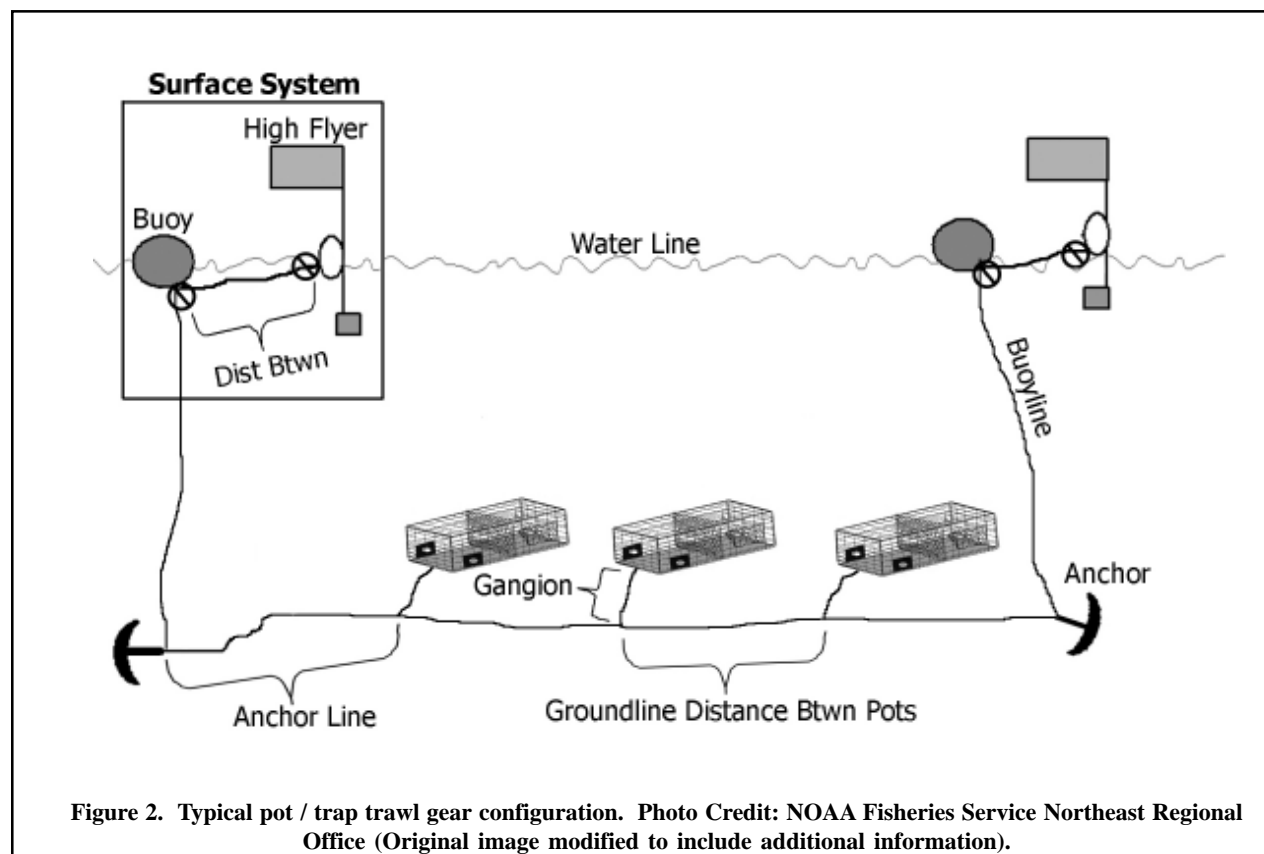


Figure 2. Typical pot / trap trawl gear configuration. Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office (Original image modified to include additional information).